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PLAYING FORWARD...

RAIDERS REBOUND FROM DOUBLEHEADER LOSS

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Winning Powerball jackpot ticket sold in La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

One of two winning tickets in the April 28 drawing for the over $141 million Powerball jackpot was sold in La Porte.

According to the Hoosier Lottery, the ticket matching all six numbers was purchased at Al's Supermarket at 702 E. Lincolnway.

Alexis Pontius-Buell, vice president of Lakeshore Foods, the owner of Al's Supermarkets in La Porte and Michigan City along with Barney's Supermarket in New Buffalo, said she was definitely surprised when informed where the winning ticket was bought.

"I'm excited for our customer that won," she said.

The name of the winning ticket holder has not been announced.

Pontius-Buell said it was the first time a winning ticket for such a large jackpot in any of the lottery drawings was sold at the store, which has been selling Powerball and other lottery tickets for over 30 years.

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody congratulated whoever has the winning ticket and the owners of the store, which will receive an undisclosed cash stipend for selling the ticket.

"I wish them well. I'm sure they will have all kinds of new friends they never knew before," he said.

The jackpot will be divided between whoever holds the winning ticket in La Porte and the holder of the other winning ticket purchased in Kansas.

According to the Hoosier Lottery, a ticket sold in Michigan City worth $1 million for matching five of the six numbers in the same drawing was claimed by Lori Porter, who purchased the ticket at the GoLo station on E. Michigan Boulevard.

Arrest in food delivery worker robberies

BY STAN MADDUX

An arrest has been made for a rash of food delivery workers being robbed at gunpoint in Michigan City.

Julius Harris, 26, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with three Level 3 felony counts of robbery.

According to court documents, he's accused of holding up three delivery workers from different pizza establishments on three consecutive days beginning April 28.

Police said Harris placed the orders on a phone with numbers that cannot be traced.

When the orders arrived, police said Harris at each location was there pointing a gun demanding the food and money.

All of the robberies occurred about 7 p.m. on Phillips St. and E. 11th St.

According to police, Harris told investigators he was having a tough time financially after losing his construction job and he took the food to a nearby home he was sharing with his girlfriend and her family for all of them to eat.

According to police, Harris told investigators he was having a tough time financially after losing his construction job and he took the food to a nearby home he was sharing with his girlfriend and her family for all of them to eat.

Harris could face anywhere from three to 16 years on each count.

Police said surveillance video showing Harris in the area of one of the robberies was among the pieces of evidence linking him to the crimes.

Yeah, I read between the lines;
my father was that way.
He was a detective on Rhodes, Greece.
— Dino N. Fatouros

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Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
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Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
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NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
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The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
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Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
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VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
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GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
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MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Prison for man who caused school bus crash

BY STAN MADDUX

A Chicago area man on fentanyl when he caused a school bus collision that injured several junior varsity baseball players and coaches near La Porte was given a nine-year prison sentence.

Shawn Akison, 42, of Romeoville, Illinois was also ordered to serve three years on probation and had his driver's license suspended for two years.

The April 29 sentencing in La Porte Circuit Court followed the terms of a guilty plea convicting him of Level 4 felony operating while intoxicated causing catastrophic injury and Level 5 felony operating while intoxicated causing serious bodily injury.

Eight years of the prison sentence was for the injuries to 17-year Lucas Bradshaw, a New Prairie High School junior who spent 54 days in a coma with a brain injury.

Bradshaw returned home about four months after last year's crash and was in the courtroom with his parents for the sentencing.

He's able to walk, talk and feed himself again following 8 to 10 hours a day of intensive therapy, which has since been scaled back to mostly once a week, his aunt, Brooklyn Mrozinski, told the packed courtroom.

However, Mrozinski said her nephew once capable of doing chores like running a planter and helping to raise livestock on his family's 1,500-acre farm still needs help with daily tasks, something he might require for the rest of his life.

She asked Judge Julianne Havens to consider the lifelong impact of the crash on Lucas and members of his family in deciding whether to accept the plea agreement.

Bradshaw's mother, Kelly, told the courtroom over tears that no parent should feel "so helpless" as she felt while seeing her son for the first time in the intensive care unit hooked to nearly a dozen tubes and wondering if he would survive.

"Accountability matters," she said.

Bradshaw's mother, Kelly, told the courtroom over tears that no parent should feel "so helpless" as she felt while seeing her son for the first time in the intensive care unit hooked to nearly a dozen tubes and wondering if he would survive.

She said one of her son's biggest goals now is to drive again.

Mrs. Bradshaw then looked at Akison, telling him "today, you will face the consequences of your actions."

Akison was behind the wheel of a box truck when he at high speeds hit the back end of a mini-bus stopped for a traffic light on U.S. 20 at Fail Road just north of La Porte.

Bradshaw was ejected from the bus, which was pushed into another mini-bus carrying the rest of the team on its way to a game.

Ryan Henrich said his son, Nick, was also ejected from the bus.

Henrich said his son planned to join the U.S. Navy after graduating this year but that's no longer in his future since fracturing an ankle that required surgery.

He asked the judge to reject the plea agreement, feeling Akison deserves more punishment not just for the crash but for having numerous past run-ins with the law.

According to court records, Akison has nine prior mostly drug related felony convictions and 12 prior misdemeanor convictions mostly in Illinois.

"I'm a forgiving man. I do believe in second chances. But, I feel due to his prior convictions, he should not be given leniency," Henrich said.

Just prior to sentencing, Akison said he is a caring and helpful person even though it doesn't seem that way.

Akison also apologized to the victims, especially Bradshaw, along with their families for the pain and suffering he brought to their lives.

"I understand the anger and I just want to say I'm sorry. I'll continue to pray like I have every day," he said.

I am the State.
— Louis XIV

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Greeting cards from years' past are one of the new exhibits

A new exhibit highlights the Gerber Company in Three Oaks

Nick Bogert highlights new exhibits to museum members

New Buffalo general store, other exhibits unveiled at Region of Three Oaks Museum

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

According to early New Buffalo pioneer Henry Chamberlain, Jacob Gerrish's general store, which opened in New Buffalo in the 1830s, was more than a place to buy life's necessities; it was "an informal community center."

"Here in bad weather, or when men were at leisure our out of work, could be found most of the villagers, and many from the country" is the quote from Chamberlain regarding the store that's on a plaque in the General and Grocery Stores display at The Region of Three Oaks Museum.

Museum members received a sneak peek of new exhibits the night before TROTOM's 2026 opening day Friday, May 1.

Also on display is a plaque containing excerpts from Gerrish's journals (archived by Michigan State University), which list his mercantile activities and sales, as well as the "wide variety of duties he performed to survive on the frontier."

Guests can also learn about Three Oaks' first candy counter, with Mary Chamberlain Warren (Henry's daughter), Caroline Chamberlain (Henry's sister-in-law) and Florence Churchill having regaled childhood tales from there to "The Acorn" in 1920. Also featured is The Eric-Ann Baking Company, owned by brother-sister duo Eric Hamburger and Ann Hofman, that produced Lebkuchen, a spice cookie eaten around Christmas, for decades in Union Pier.

Another new exhibit highlights the Gerber Company, which came to Three Oaks after Featherbone left. Per a plaque, ground was broken on a new plant for Knoll and Company, a subsidiary of Gerber Products, in 1963. The 48,000 square feet of office and workspace in the factory, which was erected on a 20-acre site on U.S. 12 West, housed "manufacturing facilities for baby pants, bibs and related items."

In the new exhibit featuring greeting and holiday cards from times past, guests can view a collection of holiday and greeting cards, with each one embellished with beautiful and elaborate artwork.

Museum board members Nick Bogert said a lot of other exhibits have been "substantially reworked." In the music room is a pianola, which he said is an early form of the player that has mechanical fingers sticking out of the back of it.

"So, you wheel your piano up to this device and you put in a piano roll and then the fingers go up and down and play," Bogert said, adding that it was invented in Michigan.

The cameras exhibit now includes a mockup of a 1900 photography studio. Museum board member Nick Bogert said that Teresa Savage, who's great, great grandmother was one of the first woman photographers in the Midwest in the 1870s, gave them the big box camera as part of the museum's permanent collection after lending it to them for the last couple years as well as the posing chair.

The display on Native Americans includes a profile of local archaeologist William Mangold, who passed away and whose wife, Kathleen, contributed the items.

Bogert said the new and improved front of the museum is thanks to newest board member, Beth Sittig.

He said that restoration work was about to begin "in earnest" on the 7 South Elm Street building, which was donated to the museum by Jim Barkhurst.

The 1930s circuit breaker box and the cloth wiring will be replaced in the next couple of weeks, and the padlock, steel door at the building's rear will be replaced by a fire safety door with a push bar.

The building had two Warren family businesses that operated there from the 1930s to 1980s: E.K. Warren and Son and the Warren Oil & Gas Company.

"Our plan is to put up displays about the Featherbone Company and the Warrens and their agricultural holdings, which were vast," Bogert said.

It's hoped displays will be in the building by next year.

The Region of Three Oaks Museum is located at 5 Featherbone Avenue in Three Oaks and is open from noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday through October.

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Raiders rebound from doubleheader loss

BY STAN MADDUX

After suffering their first two losses of the season, the Red Arrow Raiders swept a doubleheader at home on Thursday, April 30, against Eau Claire in high school baseball.

The Raiders by a score of 13-3 won the first game, which was called after the Beavers scored no runs in the top of the fourth inning under the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 10-run rule.

The Raiders started the game with five runs in the first inning.

After the first two hitters walked, a crisp single to left field by Drew Bowen drove in the first run for the Raiders.

Cooper Lynch was next to drive in a run with a sacrifice fly to left field scoring Bowen, who tagged up from third base on the catch to score.

After reaching base on a fielding error, Nick Wolfe later scored from third base on a bunt to the pitcher whose throw to the catcher was just a split second too late for the tag.

Four of the first five batters for the Raiders scored in the second inning.

Lucas Thun drove in the second run of the inning with a triple to right field then tagged up to score on a sacrifice fly to left field from Bowen.

Wolfe and Lynch reached base next on a single and double and, eventually, crossed the plate.

Bowen, the starting pitcher, was replaced in the third inning by Braeden Bergerson, who looked overpowering when striking out the first batter he faced.

The next four batters reached base, though, on singles and a walk.

Two of the baserunners scored on a single to left field while one more baserunner crossed the plate on a throwing error.

All four of the runs the Raiders scored in the third inning came on three singles, a walk and a fielding error after the first two hitters made outs.

Jeff Tertel pitched the final inning, allowing no baserunners while recording two strikeouts.

Tertel, who has an 80 mile per hour fastball, also has a sharp breaking curve ball that he's worked to improve the past two seasons.

He's been used more in relief this year and, recently, has been the closer on the mound something he likes more than starting.

"I prefer it, honestly, now. You just go in, do the job and get out," he said.

On his triple, Thun said "it felt amazing."

The losses for the Raiders came the previous week against Buchanan 7-3 and 5-3.

Head Coach Bryan McCarty said the losses could have been wins had there not been so many errors in the field and his pitchers walking nearly a dozen batters combined in both games.

"They came in ready to play. We made a lot of mistakes," he said.

Thun said the team is playing pretty well but has potential to get even better by making fewer mistakes.

"I think we just need to clean-up on the errors, and we'll be a very good team," he said.

McCarty said another goal is to hit better, which he's been working on harder with his players during recent practice sessions.

The extra work seemed to pay-off against Eau Claire.

"We had a lot better swings today," he said.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Timing. Two weeks ago, I was sitting around feeling sorry for myself because I wasn't feeling well.

Today, I feel like a million bucks as I sit and watch the Cubs win at home for the umpteenth time in a row. Not only that, but the other Chicago team is on a bit of a roll.

The White Sox signed a relatively unheralded Japanese player, Munetaka Murakami, who is tearing it up and is tied for the league lead in home runs. Murakami, Montgomery, and pitching that is better than expected have the Sox near the top of their division.

It seems like a long time since both Chicago teams were playing so well, and it sure is nice.

The KentuckyDerby is often called "the most exciting two minutes in sports" because it packs a lot of thrills in a short amount of time, and this year was no different.

A 23-1 shot, Golden Tempo, won the race by a neck over one of the co-favorites, Renegade. Ocelli, a 70-1 shot finished third.

Golden Tempo had to rally from last place to win the race and the finish was exciting with the long shot holding off the charge of the favorite. Right after the race, Golden Tempo's jockey Jose Ortiz reached out to shake hands with Renegades jockey who happens to be his brother.

For the first time in 152 Derbies, the winning horse was trained by a woman, Cherie DeVaux. Congratulations to all involved.

A long, long time ago, I was going to school at Southern Illinois University. The Derby is run in Louisville, and Louisville is close to SIU and one of my best friends was from Louisville, so it seemed completely natural that four of us would hitch hike down to further our education.

When we got to town, we stayed at our friends house and found out that one of his friends was working at the racetrack. The people with money sit up in the stands, wear fancy hats, and drink mint juleps. College kids and those with a sense of adventure go to the infield and mostly drink beer.

Our new friend was working the infield and he allowed us to bring in a cooler filled with beer, which was strictly prohibited.

By the time the Derby was about to be run, the line at the concession stand was really, really long and we had drank enough beer for one day so we sold what we had remaining.

The trip was not only educational, it was profitable as well. I have a soft spot in my heart for the derby, and make every effort to watch it every year. If you ever get the chance to attend, don't let it pass you by.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Raiders win both games of doubleheader in girls softball

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders at home Tuesday swept a double header from Benton Harbor 17-0 and 18-1 in girls' high school softball.

In the first game, the Raiders wasted no time getting on the scoreboard from back-to-back run scoring doubles in the first inning by sophomore Rylee Rudolph and junior Johnna Rochefort.

They were followed by an RBI single from slugger Addison Lynch, a sophomore.

Eight runs before the inning were over crossed the plate for the Raiders, who also had several players score from walks and a number of miscues on defense.

There was no let up for the Raiders in the second inning, which started with Rochefort and Lynch reaching base on an error and walk.

They scored on singles by freshman Ella Lijewski and senior Greta Vollman.

After another fielding error and walk, senior Brianna Taylor hit a run scoring single down the third base line.

The Raiders scored two more runs before the game was called under the Michigan High School Athletic Association's mercy rule after Benton Harbor failed to score in the third inning.

Vollman, who was the starting pitcher, struck out four of the seven batters she faced before replaced by Rudolph, whose trip to the mound was her first one of the season.

Other first game highlights included Rochefort the starting catcher throwing out two runners.

Raiders Head Coach Erick Rochefort said the games were an opportunity for him to put players in different positions so they're ready to fill those spots if injuries occur during the season.

It was also a chance for him put substitute players into the game to get some playing experience.

"That helps in games like this to build confidence. Confidence hitting. Confidence playing defense," he said.

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Everybody's talking trash these days, so why not keep quiet? — *Dennis Rodman*

Students celebrate 'Great Gatsby'-themed prom

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Students walked the traditional red carpet in the Gold Gym before New Buffalo High School's Great Gatsby-themed prom Saturday, May 2.

Students posed underneath a spotlight in front of an audience of family and friends before piling onto a bus to take in the Chicago skyline on a three-hour cruise on the Spirit of Chicago at Navy Pier.

Crowned this year's prom king and queen were Isai Lopez and Nicole Semunchuk.

Promgoers rush to waiting school bus

Valerie Corral, Riley Castel-Brow, Zoe Sims, Taylor Poff and Michael Clary

Leo Lemieux, Justus Rowland and Joseph Bowers

Promgoers walk the red carpet

Angelina Bryk and Lucas Forker

Lydia Denham and Lucas Kreske

Promgoers pose on the red carpet

Prom King and Queen Isai Lopez and Nicole Semunchuk

Prom goers walk the red carpet for family and friends

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What's Happening, Hillary?

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO THE BEST IN NEW BUFFALO, AND BEYOND!

MAY 7, THURSDAY:
- Crushed Glass Crafting at Red Top Winery in Baroda 6pm [Tickets]
- Flower Arranging Workshop at Heron Bistro in Michigan City 6pm [Tickets]

MAY 8, FRIDAY:
- Cars, Guitars, and Cider at Peat's Cider Social in Stevensville 6pm [Free]
- Sixteen Candles Live Music at the Acorn in Three Oaks 8pm [Tickets]

MAY 9-10, SATURDAY-SUNDAY:
- Round Barn Winery & Estate Sangria Party 11am-6pm [Cover Charge]

MAY 9, SATURDAY:
- Cars & Coffee at Oaks Eatery in Three Oaks 8:30-11am [Free]
- Mother's Day Market at the American Legion Post 518 in New Troy 10am-3pm [Free]
- Mother's Day Market in Downtown Stevensville 10am-4pm [Free]
- Creative Place Crafting Space at Sandpiper in Bridgman 12-5pm [Free]
- Mother's Day Tea at the Barker Mansion in Michigan City 1pm [Tickets]
- Ecologist Hike at Ambler Flatwoods in Michigan City 1pm [RSVP Requested]
- UB40 Featuring Ali Campbell at Silver Creek Event Center – Four Winds in New Buffalo 9pm [Tickets]

MAY 10, SUNDAY:
- Bridgman Open Air Market Opening Day 9am-3pm [Free]
- Mother's Day Brunch at Various Locations including: Tabor Hill, Skip's, Heron Bistro, Journeyman, Leeds Public House, Burn 'Em Brewing, and more.

MAY 12, TUESDAY:
- Open Dance Night at Sunset Coast Country Dancers Studio in Stevensville 7 – 8:30pm [Cover Charge]
- Meow & Tell at Tom Cat Tavern in Three Oaks 7pm [Free]

MAY 13, WEDNESDAY:
- Open Bocce at Sonny D's Speakeasy in New Buffalo 6-9pm [Free]

MAY 16, SATURDAY:
- Dog Days at Fernwood in Buchanan 9-11am [Cover Charge]
- Home, Garden & Builder Festival in Downton New Buffalo 9am-4pm [Free]
- World's Okayest "Wine Run" at Tabor Hill Winery 11am [Free]
- SIP! Buchanan: Farmer's Market, Run, Live Music, Dancing, Drinks, and More in Downtown Buchanan 2-6pm [Free]
- Watermark Yard Sale in Stevensville 11am-4pm [Free]
- Skip's New Buffalo European Farmers Market Opening Day 9am-3pm [Free]

MAY 17, SUNDAY:
- Jake Diggity & Sincopado Live Music at Shoreline Brewery in Michigan City 3-7pm [Cover Charge]
- Aaron James Wright Live Music at Haymarket Taproom in Bridgman 6pm [Free]
- Open Mic Night at The Acorn in Three Oaks 7pm [Tickets]

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Aaaaand...action!"

On this day in 1985, I stood just outside the production set at the Forum, watching preparations for taping the live action segments of Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling. Make-up artists applied final make-up to Mean Gene Okerlund and Rowdy Roddy Piper sitting in directors' chairs on the set. The lighting director strode around the set taking light readings and blocking shadows my inexperienced eyes couldn't see. Sound technicians tested their equipment, and production assistants scurried,attending to a myriad of tasks.

The sets were lit, Roddy and Mean Gene standing next to each other, Gene with a microphone, as if interviewing Piper. From the darkness I heard a production assistant call, "Ready on the set!" Everything fell still and quiet. Then, from the darkness, I heard, "Sound...? Speed?" the camera operator and sound technician answering, "Sound" and "Speed." A few seconds later I heard, "Aaaaand...action!"

I watched Mean Gene and Roddy deliver hilarious lines, all of us trying not to laugh out loud. In the midst of the segment, Roddy pulled a scissors from his kilt, grabbed Mean Gene's tie and sliced it vertically, six inches from the bottom.

Roddy waited while Gene looked down at his severed tie. Then Gene looked to Roddy and, voice low, said, "Roddy Piper...you're not a nice man." After a long beat I heard, "Aaaaand cut!"

There was laughter and applause all around. Roddy and Mean Gene embraced, laughing, and it occurred to me that Gene was wrong, that Rowdy Roddy Piper is a nice man. In fact, they're both nice men...and they're both professionals.

Being on the set with superstar wrestlers was thrilling. I'd spent a decade in L.A. and had run into a lot of stars – Bo Derek (sigh), Dean Martin, Rock Hudson, Robert Redford, Lynda Carter (sigh again) and others. With the exception of Lynda Carter, who I interviewed for Entrepreneur Magazine, I hadn't spent a lot of time with those celebrities. But after a couple of minutes I'd get a good read on them, and what I'd learned was, for the most part, they were decent people. So I was no longer starstruck.

But Hulk Hogan, Rowdy Roddy Piper, The Iron Sheik, Junkyard Dog and Mr. Fuji? Not only were these guys celebrities, but they were waaaay outside of the box. They were characters, which, I supposed, was why they got their own television show and why I'd enjoyed getting to hang around with them for a few hours.

Back at the studio the next day, I reflected on how Mert Rich had one of the best staff jobs at DIC – 'Consultant'. All he had to do was come up with comedy bits to be added to live action wraparound scripts. Since he had a long history in comedy I figured that was a snap.

And then I ran into him in a corridor, a dour look on his face.

Writers are generally empathetic toward other writers, so I knew something was up. When I asked what was going on, Mert mumbled, "I think Andy's going to fire me." I was astonished. Mert was well-liked at DIC, and I supposed he was good at his job, until he confessed, "I don't know what I'm doing around here..."

Again, I was stunned. I didn't have long to think about it though. Lori rounded a corner, pointed at me and said, "I need to see you in my office... now." Suddenly, Mert's problems faded and I was left worrying about my own fate.

HOROSCOPE

MAY 7-13, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Take the advice of those in the know financially this week. Honor doing things by the book when it comes to investments and money management. Following traditional methods and making the most of old school styles will bring you a more secure and lasting reward. Keep things private and don't flaunt your moves.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Start using that one track mind of yours to focus in on the things that need to be done. It's important yous stay focused on work and taking care of financial arrangements. Others may not be holding up their end of the deal and you may need to step in this week and handle it.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

There will be a lot happening with friends or the people you associate with. You may be asked to help financially or commit to helping in the future. Be careful you don't get taken advantage of or give more than you can afford to. Avoid committing to things because you want be liked or accepted.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

It is time to get back into socializing and mingling with people so that you can be a part of something bigger that has a larger purpose. You will know how and what to contribute to by paying attention to the way others are doing things and then synthesizing your skills with theirs.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

This is the week to explore and try different things. Break out of your usual routines and treat yourself to something new. Don't get caught up in logistics or trying to get everything organized and planned out before you proceed. This is about being spontaneous and letting spirit guide you.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

It's important that you get recognition for all the hard work you do. If people are not acknowledging the extra efforts you are giving, it's time to speak up. Don't keep giving everything you can, if others are not contributing like they should. Stand up for yourself and don't be taken for granted.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

It's time to take the lead and create a more cohesive environment at work. It's about creating the space where everyone feels like they are part of the team but yet has their own unique and essential contribution. If there are toxic players or people that have unhealthy coping mechanisms, it's time to get in therapy.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Finances will smooth out nicely this week and you can expect some very good news concerning any legal issues. Talk with partners or close friends and start making plans for the future. Now is the time to open up and tell people what you want out of life. Share your dreams and release your fears.

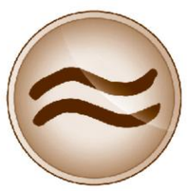
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Be more creative and free spirited this week. This is not the time to get bogged down in details and paperwork. If you have ideas act on them. Go with flashes of inspirational and let your creations take you to new places. Show off any talents you have and the job offers will materialize.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

It's time to get your heart engaged and let the love flow. Relationships and connecting with others will be taking center focus now. It's not just romantic connections, it's about being creative and having a partner that joins in and truly contributes to the projects that are near and dear to your heart.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



This is a great week to get your home freshened up and your garden weeded. Start thinking about the summer season ahead and what you can do to make your home more relaxing and serene. You may find that some of your friends do not make your place very tranquil.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Your workplace could be a little hectic this week and it's important that you take time to decompress at the end of the day. Try to leave work issues at work. Don't mix business with pleasure now. Aviod gossip at work. When you gather with friends relax. Don't hash out all that work drama at home.

Somewhere beyond right and wrong, there is a garden. I will meet you there. — *Rumi*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		1				2		
						7	4	8
7		4						5
	1	8	4	6				
	6		7					9
		5	2		9			
								7
			9		8	5	2	
	2					8	1	

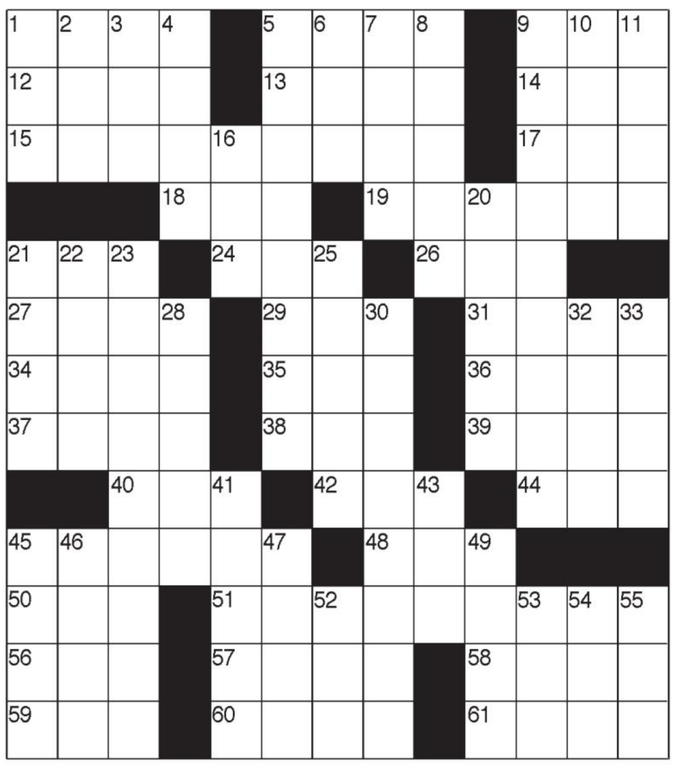
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Ancient race of Japan
5 Ship's wheel
9 Socialist Labor Party (abbr.)
12 Ancient Gr. city
13 Large lake
14 Hawaiian assembly
15 Pirate (2 words)
17 Experimental (abbr.)
18 Corinthians (abbr.)
19 Barons
21 Here lies buried (abbr.)
24 Jap. fish
26 Border for a picture
27 Talk stupidly
29 Promise to pay
31 Dog salmon
34 Roman number II02
35 Celestial body
36 Scandinavian navigator
37 National (abbr.)
38 Multilateral Nuclear Force (abbr.)
39 Dried up
40 Commodore (abbr.)
42 Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (abbr.)
44 Doctor of Library Sciences (abbr.)
45 Battered
48 African native
50 Blockhead
51 Weapon
56 Imitator
57 P.I. dyewood tree
58 Mineral deposit
59 System (abbr.)
60 Red dye root
61 Boat

DOWN

1 Bronze money
2 Capable of (suf.)
3 Nat'l Intelligence Authority (abbr.)
4 United States Reserve Corps (abbr.)
5 Judaism
6 Tarzan creator's initials
7 Claim
8 Lake near Sea of Galilee
9 Protected
10 Extravagant
11 Playing card spots
16 Out (Scot.)
20 Roasts
21 Ode
22 Jackfruit
23 Gear
25 Demeter's other name
28 Aviator
30 Unjustly
32 Twirl (Scot.)
33 Expert pilots
41 Doctor
43 African sorcery (abbr.)
45 Sheep's cries
46 Descry
47 Cloud (pref.)
49 Mere
52 Narrow inlet of a river
53 Portuguese territory in India
54 Man's name: abbr.
55 Relative (abbr.)



PUBLIC NOTICES

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 6 o'clock p.m., at 1112 E. Clay Street, New Buffalo, Michigan, the Board of Education of New Buffalo Area Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2026-2027 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 1112 E. Clay Street, New Buffalo, Michigan and/or available online at: www.nbas.org.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.
1
This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

VANESSA THUN
SECRETARY

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH COUNTY OF BERRIEN STATE OF MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 2026-118

An Ordinance, granting to SEMCO Energy Gas Company, a Michigan corporation, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to conduct a local gas business in the Village of Grand Beach, located in Berrien County, Michigan, for a period of thirty years.

Please take note this Ordinance was adopted by the Village Council at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of March 2026.

KIMBERLY WOLNIK
CLERK-TREASURER

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

HS/MS EAST SIDE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT ISSUE DATE:
May 4, 2026

PROPOSAL DUE DATE:
May 18, 2026 at 12:00 PM

PROJECT LOCATION:
New Buffalo High School / Middle School – East Side
Owner: New Buffalo Area Schools (NBAS)

CONTACT:
Mark German,
Director of Operations
Email: mgerman@nbas.org
Phone: 269-469-6017

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW
New Buffalo Area Schools is requesting proposals for the removal and replacement of existing sidewalks on the east side of the HS/MS building.

This project includes full replacement of sidewalk sections from the middle school parking lot near Clay Street to the administration parking area near Door 21. Please contact Mark German, Director of Operations, for Full Scope of Work at 269-469-6017 or mgerman@nbas.org.

Youth fair handbooks, online entries available

Berrien County Youth Fair Exhibitor Handbooks and online entries are now available.

Andrews University is sponsoring and printing the 2026 Exhibitor Handbooks. Books and entry forms may be picked up at the fair office in Berrien Springs, all Berrien County public libraries, the Berrien County 4-H office and the following Berrien County businesses (equine forms will be available at the libraries and fair office only): Baroda City Mills in Baroda, Country Heritage Credit Union in Buchanan, Tractor Supply Company, Rural King and Mark Farm Supply in Niles, Watervliet Fruit Exchange in Watervliet, Siefert's Farm Supply in Three Oaks, Tractor Supply Company in Stevensville and Tractor Supply Company and Family Farm and Home in Benton Harbor.

Exhibitor handbooks can also be viewed online by specific department or the full book at www.bcyf.org. Exhibitor handbooks contain information on how to exhibit, exhibitor rules, registration deadlines and a complete listing of all classes available. Exhibitors must be 5 to 20 years of age to exhibit all animals, including livestock and still exhibits (crafts, home economics, horticulture, flowers). Age is determined as of Jan. 1 of the current year.

Online registration has been updated to a new program this year. It will look different, but the general process is the same. Exhibitors should create a username and password, which will be carried over from year to year. Options for families or group entries will be available with more details to follow soon. Once registered, exhibitors can return to the program and add more entries up until each entry deadline, except for equine. The exhibitor's printed email confirmation will serve as the traditional yellow copy of the entry form and is required on entry day, just as the yellow copy of the traditional entry form is. The link for online entries can be found at www.bcyf.org.

In most cases, school projects can be exhibited, and exhibitors get paid for exhibiting. Each exhibitor will receive an exhibitor season pass for free admission to the fair for the entire week. Each exhibit will be judged and given an A, B, or C award. Exhibitors will receive a ribbon and monetary award (premium) that corresponds with the award. Ribbons will be distributed when exhibits are picked up at the conclusion of the fair and premium checks can be picked up at the entry office as well on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 2-5 p.m. or Sunday, Aug. 23, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The following are deadlines, with each deadline being at 6 p.m. on each entry deadline date: June 1, large animals (beef breeding, dairy, sheep, goats, swine, llamas/alpacas and equine); July 1, small animals (rabbits, poultry, cats, dogs, pocket pets); and Aug. 1, still exhibits (crafts, home economics, flowers, horticulture, variety classes).

No entries will be accepted after 6 p.m. on the deadline date. Entry forms can be turned in anytime until the appropriate deadline date.

Entry forms for equine and llama/alpaca are customized printed forms. Exhibitors will need to pick up their equine or llama/alpaca forms at the Fair Office in Berrien Springs. Llama/alpacas can be registered online, but equine must be registered with the customized printed form.

Animal identification rules from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) include dairy and beef, which must have official USDA identification tag, with the Tag Hotline being (888) 565-8626 or registered breed tattoo accompanied by breed registration papers. Dairy cattle can use a DHIA tag as official id (Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc.). Goats must have official USDA Scrapie identification tag, with the Tag Hotline being 517-337-4705 or registered breed tattoo accompanied by breed registration papers. Sheep must have official USDA Scrapie tag, with the Tag Hotline being 517-337-4705. Swine must have an 840 tag, with the Tag Hotline being (888) 565-8626.

The USDA tag number must be on the entry form when it is turned into the Fair Office by the June 1 deadline. Call the fair office for clarification of any tag questions.

The Fair Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A special drop box is located just outside the office doors and contains a supply of books and entry forms. Completed entry forms may be left in the slot of the drop box, mailed to the Fair Office, P.O. Box 7, Berrien Springs, MI 49103, or hand delivered during office hours. Registrations will be accepted up to 6 p.m. on the appropriate deadline date. Early registration is encouraged so deadlines are not missed. Contact the Fair Office at 269-473-4251 by phone or at entry@bcyf.org by e-mail with questions.

This year's BCYF theme is "Happy Birthday America!" Fair dates are Aug. 17-22. — STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo Middle/High School is Evergreen Michigan School

New Buffalo Middle/High School has received a Michigan Green Schools Award as an Evergreen Michigan School.

Per a press release, less than 200 schools of the 8,000 in the state have received this award for Environmental initiatives and actions.

New Buffalo Middle/High School has many student and staff-led initiatives interwoven into the students Environmental and Sustainability education. Education starts early, with the middle school running the school's paper recycling led by Mary Cooper. The high school has Environmental teams led by Angie Smith and an Environmental education course. This course and the teams focus on agriculture, wildlife, alternative energy, soils and geology, aquatic ecology and water quality, and environmental activism. Students in the Envirothon teams and class conduct annual community outreach projects. Some of the projects include mycological water purification for the retention area, planting walnut riparian buffers, removing invasive species, planting and maintaining an orchard, building bee boxes for the school apiary, maintaining the bee and butterfly flower beds, building habitats for birds and animals, and engineering, building, and maintaining solar heat collectors and solar arrays.

In collaboration, the Building Trades program, which is taught by Bryan Ripley, often helps with the construction projects. These projects were recently presented during Art Attack weekend, which was coordinated by art teacher Ashley Jager.

New Buffalo High School regularly has multiple Michigan Envirothon teams, which select a community outreach project annually for their focus. They also assist with environmental education at the elementary school. This year, two teams are attending the Michigan Envirothon State Competition at Northern Michigan University. — STAFF REPORTS

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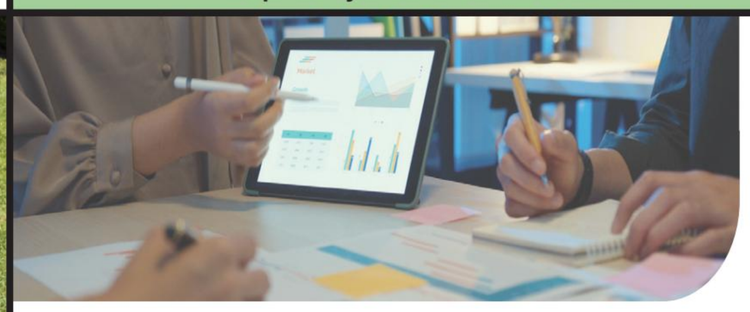
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Friends of New Buffalo Township Fire thank Puff and Supergood for donation supporting UTV Purchase

The Friends of New Buffalo Township Fire would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Puff and Supergood for their generous donation toward the purchase of a new Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) for the New Buffalo Township Fire Department.

This important addition to the department's equipment will enhance the Fire Department's ability to serve the community in a variety of ways. The UTV will be utilized for emergency rescues, community events, and other public service needs throughout New Buffalo Township. Its versatility and mobility will allow first responders to access areas that may be difficult to reach with larger emergency vehicles, improving response capabilities and public safety.

"We are incredibly thankful for the support of Puff and Supergood," said Shanna Plis, president of Friends of New Buffalo Township Fire. "Their generosity directly benefits our firefighters and the residents and visitors we serve. This UTV will be a valuable asset for many years to come."

The Friends of New Buffalo Township Fire continues its mission of supporting the Fire Department through fundraising efforts, community partnerships, and donations that help provide critical equipment and resources. — STAFF REPORTS

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

THE OTHER SIDE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

We all have to make changes in life that we see are draining and robbing us from energy and creativity. For many, it is social media and screen time. We all know thatit is addicting. I hear people regularly say that they need to take a vacation from social media. However, they never pack their bags.

Social media is a great tool to connect, but research shows mental, physical, and neurological effects of overdoing it. It can take an emotional toll by the constant scrolling of algorithms. We have all been there! Know your threshold. Control it, don't let it control you.

Regular exposure to AI-enhanced perfection leads to judging ourselves. This can lead to reduced self-esteem, eating disorders and FOMO (fear of missing out) and worse. Studies show that spending more than 3 hours per day on screen time face double the risk of anxiety and depression

Many users show patterns of addiction such as loss of control, withdrawal, and continued use despite harm.

Using social media at night suppresses sleep inducing melatonin production due to the blue light exposure.Heavy users report waking up during the night to check notifications and scroll, leading to chronic fatigue and anxiety throughout the day.

The constant "ping" of notifications can raise cortisol levels, heart rate, and blood pressure, straining the heart over time. We all see it. You are having lunch with a friend and their phone keeps going off. Their attention is not on you. They are looking at their phone instead of enjoying your company.

The choices to respond to notifications can lead to decision fatigue and brain fog making deep focus nearly impossible. Our brains are not meant to multi task to such a degree. Extended screen time can cause digital eye strain. This can result in blurred vision, dry eyes, and headaches.

The reward system (not knowing when the next "Like" will come) creates a dopamine loop. Dopamine is a pleasure hormone that is good in small doses. This is the hormone released when exercising, eating right, listening to music, sunlight, touch, walking on the beach, petting an animal, or achieving goals, etc. However, it can be artificially stimulated with drugs, alcohol, sugar, gaming, social media, gambling, and other stimulants.

Excessive dopamine can cause mental and physical behavioral issues. Poor impulse control, aggression, and competitiveness. It can lead to insomnia, anxiety, delusions, and a risk of addiction. It can damage neurons, contributing to neurodegenerative disorders.

Social media has taken over to watching, instead of doing. Our brains crave newness. Listening to music can release the same pleasure. Cooking a meal, assembling the ingredients and seeing the outcome is very rewarding.Take a walk. Do a dance or stretches.

Amino acid rich foods create the dopamine we crave. Living foods such as greens, vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds and legumes.

Your health and your children's health are your responsibility. Find natural ways to increase dopamine and limit screen time where you can.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

SAM

This smarty cat is Sam. He's a gentle, quiet fellow and has one of those faces that will melt your heart in an instant. Sam is about five years old, weighs just over seven pounds and is neutered. Sam has lived in a home with other feline friends before. He did alright with them and the shelter thinks he'd be okay either way—with or without kitty friends. As long as he has people in a quiet home to tell him that he is the best cat ever, he'll be good. Make Sam part of your home today.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

8	5	1	6	4	7	2	9	3
6	9	2	1	5	3	7	4	8
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BIKE-N-BRUNCH SLATED FOR NEXT MONTH

The annual Radio Harbor Country Bike-N-Brunch Fundraiser, which will begin and end at Harbert Community Park on Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, will take place at 8:30 a.m. Sunday June 7.

Riders of all levels will enjoy 15, 20, or 25-mile loops through some of Harbor Country's most beautiful backroads. At the end of the ride, participants will enjoy a gourmet brunch of locally grown and prepared food provided through the generous support of Luisa's Harbert Swedish Bakery and Market, Sawyer Garden Center, Red Arrow Roadhouse, Heston Supper Club, Green Spirit Farms and Infusco Coffee Roasters.

Rain or shine, this boutique ride and brunch will be limited to the first 150 registrants. Space is still available by registering online at www.radioharborcountry.org/events.

— STAFF REPORTS

More Polish Pottery offering beautiful, functional stoneware

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

In 2011, Rebecca Gengler launched More Polish Pottery in the garage of the home of her and her husband, Darrin, in Big Rock, Illinois, an 800-resident farming community without a stoplight.

Referring to the phrase "You build it, they will come," Gengler said that people drove from Chicago and even Ohio and Pennsylvania to buy the pottery.

"We kind of call it our pottery field of dreams," she said.

A soft opening was held at More Polish Pottery's New Buffalo store, which is located at 17656 U.S. Highway 12, last weekend. The grand opening is slated for Thursday, May 14.

In addition to New Buffalo, the store has two other Michigan locations: South Haven and Muskegon.

Gengler said she attributes their store's following to the handcrafted Polish stoneware, which is a "higher end bakeware series that people can really use for everyday use."

"It's beautiful, it's all handmade - but it's also very functional," she said.

More Polish Pottery sells bakeware, dinnerware, mugs, bowls and vases. The Lighthouse Collection, which features mugs, bowls and other items with the signature South Haven, Michigan, red lighthouse painted on, is made exclusively for More Polish Pottery.

Other items sold at the shop are Polish glass ornaments, Hungarian ceramic flowers and wooden Pisanki eggs. More Polish Pottery is the exclusive seller of Mirek's famous Polish Nochales, which Gengler said are wooden figures with a famous "nose" made in Poland by Miroslaw Czeladka. A well-known chainsaw carver, Gengler said Czeladka, who they've worked with since 2019, needs to only look at a block of wood to envision "what he carves."

"People who love our store are people who like good quality items, people who cook and entertain - you don't have to be Polish to enjoy the pottery because a lot of people like pretty things," Gengler, who herself is fourth generation Polish, said.

Each piece is handmade in Boleslawiec, Poland, with Gengler traveling to Poland to work with the artists and factories. One factory, which started after World War II and was in an area that was Germany but later became part of Poland, has been around for 80 years. Gengler said they've had world debuts for artists with more than 30 years' experience after they've branched out to being independent artists.

"When I go to Poland, I try to find independent artists, sometimes I find jewelry... I try to find artists who maybe wouldn't have a voice to sell their product elsewhere and we've given them a voice in America," Gengler said.

Saying that they love to educate people about the pottery and not just sell it, Gengler said that they plan to hold small presentations in the back room. She added they'd like to expand to the building next door, where they'll also hold classes.

At the flagship store and warehouse in Illinois, Gengler said that they hosted a variety of groups, such as garden and Polish heritage ones.

"The pottery dates back hundreds of years, so there's a lot of history with it – we'd love to give them a snapshot of that in a 30-minute presentation and this property in New Buffalo, because of this building and with our adjacent building, we can host groups that would want to learn about the pottery," Gengler said.

Once they open May 14, Gengler said New Buffalo's More Polish Pottery will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. For more information on products, visit www.morepolishpottery.com or follow on Facebook or Instagram.

Rebecca and Darrin Gengler stand by one of the displays in More Polish Pottery

Unique, handcrafted items abound on the store's shelves

Guests browse More Polish Pottery

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